

July 7, 2004
17/04

Squadron Two holds change of command

Command of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two will pass from Capt. George Croy to Capt. Craig Kleint on Friday, July 9, beginning at 10 a.m., on the Naval Station Ingleside waterfront. Rear Adml. Michael P. Nowakowski, Commander, Mine Warfare Command, will preside over the ceremony. The U.S. Navy Band Mid-South will provide musical selections.

MCM Squadron Two is one of three operational mine warfare squadrons in the U.S. Navy arsenal. Squadron Two is in charge of keeping the U.S. coastline safe and cleared for shipping. It also conducts mine clearing operations for the Navy fleet as far away as the Mediterranean Sea.

Squadron Two has had many accomplishments since Capt. Croy assumed command in August 2002. The squadron has participated in numerous exercises and deployments including Operation Iraqi Freedom, where Capt. Croy assumed control of 10 additional mine warfare units. He engaged numerous and diverse foreign militaries including Australia, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore on interoperability mine warfare issues, an effort that greatly improved the United States foreign military relations.

Capt. Croy's next assignment is as chief staff officer for Commander, Mine Warfare Command located in Corpus Christi.

Capt. Kleint reports to Squadron Two after a tour as reactor officer for the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70).

Capt. Kleint graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1981, with two bachelors degrees in electrical engineering and physics. He was then assigned to USS Davidson (FF 1045) as combat information center officer, navigator and operations officer. In July 1983, Capt. Kleint reported to the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet/Commander, Naval Logistics Command, where he served as flag lieutenant. In 1985, he was selected to the surface nuclear propulsion program. After six months training, he was assigned as reactor mechanical assistant aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68). In 1989, Capt. Kleint earned U.S. Department of Energy certification for operation and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

Capt. Kleint was then assigned to USS Badger (FF 1071) as weapons officer and operations officer. In 1991, he joined the staff of Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet as ship maintenance manager for USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), managing type commander funding and authorizing all repair and modernization work for the largest complex overhaul performed on a CVN 68 Class ship.

In 1994, Capt. Kleint was assigned as executive officer aboard USS Ingersoll (DD 990). He then served as resources officer for Command, Control, Communications and

Computer Systems Directorate for U.S. Pacific Command. He then completed two master degrees at the Naval War College.

Capt. Kleint assumed command of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) in November 1998. He reported aboard USS Carl Vinson in 2001 as reactor officer, deploying for both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Capt. Kleint's awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, and various other service awards.